

Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) WEATHER RADIOS.—

“(1) CONSTRUCTION AND SAFETY STANDARD.—The Federal manufactured home construction and safety standards established by the Secretary under this section shall require that each manufactured home delivered for sale shall be supplied with a weather radio inside the manufactured home that—

“(A) is capable of broadcasting emergency information relating to local weather conditions;

“(B) is equipped with a tone alarm;

“(C) is equipped with Specific Alert Message Encoding, or SAME technology; and

“(D) complies with Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) Standard 2009-A (or current revision thereof) Performance Specification for Public Alert Receivers.

“(2) LIABILITY PROTECTIONS.—No aspect of the function, operation, performance, capabilities, or utilization of the weather radio required under this subsection, or any instructions related thereto, shall be subject to the requirements of section 613 or 615 or any regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to the authority under such sections.”.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT.

Not later than the expiration of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the consensus committee established pursuant to section 604(a)(3) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(a)(3)) shall develop and submit to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development a proposed Federal manufactured home construction and safety standard required under section 604(i) of such Act (as added by the amendment made by section 3 of this Act). Notwithstanding section 604(a)(5)(B) of such Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue a final order promulgating the standard required by such section 604(i) not later than the expiration of the 90-day period beginning upon receipt by the Secretary of the proposed standard developed and submitted by the consensus committee.

SEC. 5. STUDY.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall conduct a study regarding conditioning the applicability of the requirement under the amendment made by section 3 of this Act (relating to supplying weather radios in manufactured homes) on the geographic location at which a manufactured home is placed, but only to the extent that such requirement applies to new manufactured homes and new site-built homes. In conducting such study and making determinations under the study, the Secretary shall take into consideration severe weather conditions, such as high winds and flooding, and wind zones and other severe weather data available from the National Weather Service. Not later than the expiration of the 18-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete the study and submit a report regarding the results of the study to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks, I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) for his continued leadership on this issue, and for authoring the legislation that is before us today.

H.R. 320, the CJ's Home Protection Act of 2009, is named after CJ Martin, a 2-year old boy who was killed when an F3 tornado struck his manufactured home in 2005. Over 8 million families rely on manufactured housing to fulfill their housing needs. However, many manufactured homes, particularly those built before 1994, are incapable of withstanding the winds of a tornado, which can reach up to 200 miles. In 2008, 45 percent of tornado-related deaths occurred in manufactured homes.

H.R. 320 would provide a much-needed safety component to manufactured homes by requiring that they be equipped with weather radios that can inform families ahead of time that potentially dangerous weather is on the way. With this information, families can take appropriate action to protect themselves in the event of dangerous weather. These radios can be provided at a minimal cost—less than \$50 in most cases—and are a small price to pay for saving even one life.

In addition, given the government's reliance on manufactured housing to meet the temporary housing needs of families displaced by natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, this kind of housing is becoming more and more critical to the lives of many Americans. It is crucial that this housing be safe and secure over the long term because, as we have seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government can be lax in funding and finding permanent housing solutions for families temporarily living in these housing units.

The House already passed this legislation during the 110th Congress, and I hope that the Senate joins us in sending a bill to the President for his signature. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 320, CJ's Home Protection Act of 2009. I would like to thank the chairman for his assistance in expediting this important bill to the floor. And I'd like to thank my colleague and author of the legislation, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH), for putting this bill together.

This bipartisan bill amends the Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 by requiring the installation of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio in all manufactured homes built or sold in the United States. These weather radios will provide immediate broadcast of severe weather warnings and civil emergency messages, including tornado and flood warnings, AMBER alerts for child abductions, and chemical spill notifications.

The legislation is named in memory of CJ Martin, a 2-year-old boy who was killed during a tornado in southwest Indiana in 2005. His mother, Kathryn, helped pass a State law requiring the manufactured housing industry to install NOAA weather radios in all newly built units and spoke at the news conference in support of similar Federal legislation. Manufactured housing in this country has replaced a lot of substandard housing, and it provides very affordable housing. It is clean, and it provides an extraordinarily good home.

Despite rapid advances in tornado warning technologies, residents of manufactured housing communities often do not have adequate access to proper shelter. Many residents of homes have a place to go in the event of a tornado, whether it is a basement or an interior room. That is why Congress passed the Tornado Shelters Act, which was signed into law in 2003. That bipartisan bill authorized communities using community development block grant monies to construct or improve tornado-safe shelters located in manufactured housing parks. Unfortunately, this program is not used often enough.

H.R. 320 represents the final link in protecting families and residents in these communities. These weather radios will get warnings out, sometimes as much as half an hour or more before a severe storm arrives. We have the ability to build shelters. Now we are going to give residents an opportunity to hear these warnings earlier so they can take shelter from these storms. The cost of installing these radios is minimal, and this is going to save lives. It is going to save families.

We will never go back and know whether CJ could have survived had this legislation been passed. We do know, though, by talking to people throughout the United States that these radios have in many, many cases already saved lives and will save lives if we install them in manufactured housing. We have a shot at significantly reducing over half of the deaths from tornadoes simply by taking the step together and passing this legislation. I again want to commend the chairman and ranking member for expeditiously moving this legislation, and I commend the Member from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) for his thoughtfulness and his care and passion and dedication to this issue.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.